

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 02126 131227Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 131010Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9510

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2126

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IT, SA

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT LEONE ON HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT LEONE ON FEBRUARY 11, LEONE EXPRESSED TO ME THE HOPE THAT DURING HIS FORTHCOMING (MARCH 2-5) TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA AND OMAN HE WOULD BE ABLE TO FURTHER THE GREAT PEACE EFFORTS BEING MADE BY SECRETARY KISSINGER. HE ASKED THAT I CONVEY TO THE SECRETARY HIS HOPES FOR THE SUCCESS OF HIS CURRENT MIDDLE EAST VISIT. PRESIDENT LEONE TOLD ME THAT, IN ADDITION TO TRYING TO DEVELOP CLOSER COMMERCIAL TIES, HE WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO IMPRESS KING FAISAL WITH THE NECESSITY FOR THE LOWERING OF OIL PRICES. I EXPRESSED OUR APPRECIATION TO PRESIDENT LEONE FOR THE SUPPORT ITALY HAS GIVEN TO OUR ENERGY POLICY.

2. IN A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF THE ITALIAN INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION, LEONE AGAIN STATED WITHOUT EQUIVOCATION THAT THE COMMUNISTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED INTO THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD ALSO MAKE THIS POINT WITH KING FAISAL.
VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PRICES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ROME02126
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750052-1005
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750246/aaaabows.tel
Line Count: 49
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT LEONE ON HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, OVIP, US, IT, (LEONE, GIOVANNI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006